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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,110	06/30/2000	Michael Jacob	9003-269-(A-00-115-B-US)	1922

570 7590 03/27/2002

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2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2200
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

DOUYON, LORNA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/609,110

Applicant(s)

JACOB ET AL.

AF 6

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on November 1, 2001.
2. The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment.
3. The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bauer et al. (US Patent No. 5,516,447), hereinafter "Bauer" is withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment and arguments therein.
4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer in view of Meyer (US Patent No. 4,734,290).

Bauer teaches a process for the production of a washing- and cleaning-active surfactant granules containing 60 to 70% by weight of surfactant and having an apparent density above 500 g/l, wherein a formulation containing a non-surface-active liquid component is introduced to a fluidized bed and granulated and, at the same time, totally or partially filled from the non-surface-active liquid compound, optionally with addition of an inorganic or organic solid, and wherein the granules are discharged from the fluidized bed via a grading step by a countercurrent air-stream

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which is adjusted so that only particles above a predetermined size are removed from the fluidized bed while smaller particles are retained therein (see abstract; col. 7, lines 1-9). In Example 1 Bauer teaches the preparation of dust-free non-tacky granules wherein the fluidizing air-flow rate is 5.1 m/s under operating conditions, the temperature of the air base plate is 100°C, the grading air is 20°C and the fluidizing air about 5 cm above the base plate is 81°C and the resulting product has a <1% by weight water content. Example 9 has a resulting product having 4.8% by weight water content (see Tables 1 and 2 under cols. 9-12). Bauer, however, fails to specifically disclose an expansion chamber and the step of reducing a flow speed of the process air supplied from below the fluidizing space in an expansion zone located above the fluidizing space.

Meyer teaches a conventional fluidized bed wherein the upper portion of the fluidized bed chamber is provided with an upwardly and outwardly tapering expansion zone, whereby the linear velocity of a flow of a gaseous medium at a given volumetric flow rate upwardly through the chamber progressively decreases with increasing elevation in the expansion zone (see col. 2, lines 15-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reasonably expect the fluidized bed of Bauer to have an expansion zone above the fluidized bed chamber and to expect the velocity of air to progressively decrease with increasing elevation in the expansion zone because such aspects are common in fluidized bed as taught by Meyer.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (703) 305-3773. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

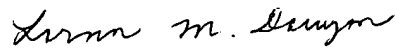
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta, can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for this Technology Center is:

(703) 872-9311 - for Official After Final faxes

(703) 872-9310 - for all other Official faxes.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

March 25, 2002


Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
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